

MI126747

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February 2005 on behalf of Ms Colleen Champney regarding the appropriateness of young people with an acquired brain injury living in aged care facilities.

As requested, the following response is provided for E-petition 377-04

As part of the Commonwealth-State/Territory Disability Agreement (Bilateral Agreement) 2002-07, Disability Services Queensland and the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, have committed to jointly review existing information on acquired brain injury with relevant stakeholders, in recognition of the need to have a shared understanding of the issue of common concern, prior to developing a response for people with an acquired brain injury.

This same Bilateral Agreement also commits the State to review the appropriateness, or otherwise, of younger people (under 50 years of age) being located in Commonwealth-funded Residential Aged Care Facilities. This group is inclusive of all disability types including a large number of younger people who have sustained an acquired brain injury.

In an effort to meet this commitment, Queensland Health and Disability Services Queensland are currently undertaking a project to examine the status of people under 50 years of age with disabilities who are accommodated in Residential Aged Care Facilities or awaiting placement for residential aged care services.

The anticipated outcomes of this project are a clearer understanding of the current situation for the target population and consideration of possible alternative options for this population and potential funding arrangements.

In addition to these initiatives, Disability Services Queensland is currently working with Queensland Health in order to develop a memorandum of understanding that will provide the basis of collaboration to address issues for a range of people with a disability. This will include people with an acquired brain injury.

It is anticipated that the specific needs of this group will be better understood and more appropriately addressed through these various initiatives.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Julie Dahl, Senior Policy Advisor, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3234 1191.

Yours sincerely

GORDON NUTTALL MP
Minister for Health
Member for Sandgate